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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS02792

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Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 /067 W

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

R 152140Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0046

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2792

Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR RIGHTS OF MAN REPORTS FOUR ABDUCTED
RELEASED, LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2580

1. FOUR MEN, INCLUDING A JOURNALIST AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN WHO WERE ABDUCTED ON APRIL 1 (REFTEL), HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM A LOCAL POLICE STATION ON DIRECT ORDERS OF AN INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL, ACCORDING TO LEAGUE LAWYER JAIME ROCLAW (PROTECT) WHO TALKED WITH EMBOFF APRIL 13. ROCLAW SAID THAT THE FOUR WERE PICKED UP, HOODED AND TAKEN TO AN INTERROGATION CENTER WHERE THEY WERE ROUGHLY TREATED AND ASKED ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO ROCLAW, SOME PROSTITUTES WHO HAD BEEN UNDER DETENTION IN THE POLICE STATION AND LATER RELEASED INFORMED HIM WHERE THE FOUR WERE BEING HELD. ROCLAW THEN CONFRONTED COLONEL LUIS SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLICE AFFAIRS IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, WITH THE INFORMATION. SULLIVAN PROMPTLY CALLED THE POLICE STATION AND ORDERED THE MEN'S RELEASE.

2. ROCLAW ALSO SAID THAT THE LEAGUE, WHICH OPERATES WITH 63 LAWYERS WORKING PART TIME AND WITHOUT PAY, HAS ABOUT 2,000 CASES OF DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED POLITICAL PRISONERS AT PRESENT. FOR EACH CASE THE LEAGUE COLLECTS TESTIMONY FROM THE

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PERSON'S FAMILY, FILES A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND SENDS TELEGRAMS ON THE PERSON'S BEHALF TO PRESIDENT VIDELA, THE JUNTA, THE PAPAL NUNCIO, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST ARMY CORPS AND OTHER SELECTED OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGHT THE LEAGUE MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, THE LEAGUE HAS HAD VERY LITTLE SUCCESS IN TRACKING DOWN DISAPPEARED PERSONS, ROCLAW SAID. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, EVEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROACHED THE LEAGUE FOR INFORMATION ON THE DISAPPEARANCE CASE OF ARGENTINE PEACE COUNCIL MEMBER JORGE ALBERTO KREYNES (ONE OF THE FOUR ABDUCTED APRIL 1 WHO HAS SINCE REAPPEARED) IN ORDER TO REPLY TO NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM ABROAD. HE ADDED THAT THE LEAGUE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE RED CROSS AND HAS RECOMMENDED THE RED CROSS VISIT CERTAIN PRISONS AND CERTAIN PRISONERS, SUCH AS SOLARI IRIGOYEN IN RAWSON PRISON. (ROCLAW SAID SOLARI IRIGOYEN APPEARED TO THE RED CROSS TO BE IN FAIR HEALTH AND HE WELCOMED THE VISIT PARTLY BECAUSE IT MEANT HE RECEIVED A SUBSTANTIAL MEAL THAT DAY.)

3. ROCLAW ESTIMATED THAT AS MANY AS 5,000 WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN ARGENTINE COURTS IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS. HE SAID MANY OF THOSE WHO APPEAR ON THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S LIST OF PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS WERE ORIGINALLY ABDUCTED BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN. IN MOST CASES ROCLAW SAID, TO BE NAMED ON THE LISTS RELEASED BY INTERIOR MINISTRY SINCE JANUARY PROVIDES A CERTAIN GUARANTEE AGAINST FURTHER TORTURE OR DANGER OF DEATH. ROCLAW SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE CASE OF LEAGUE LAWYER TERESA ISRAEL WHO DISAPPEARED IN FEBRUARY. HE CONFIRMED THAT SHE IS THE ONLY LEAGUE LAWYER TO HAVE DISAPPEARED TO DATE.

4. COMMENT: THE LEAGUE IS IDENTIFIED BY A NUMBER OF SOURCES AS A GROUP OF COMMUNIST LAWYERS WHO IN THE PAST HAVE CHIEFLY REPRESENTED LEFTIST, OR AS LEAGUE SAYS, "PROGRESSIVE THINKERS." LEAGUE IS APPARENTLY NOW ALSO TAKING ON DISAPPEARANCE CASES PRESENTED BY CONCERNED FAMILIES, BUT IT APPEARS THEY ARE HAVING NO MORE SUCCESS THAN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE

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CHURCH OR PERMANENT ASSEMBLY. ROCLAW APPEARED EAGER TO "WORK WITH" THE EMBASSY AND SUGGESTED FURTHER MEETINGS. EMBOFF THANKED ROCLAW FOR HIS INFORMATION (MUCH OF WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN) AND EXPLAINED FUNCTION OF EMBASSY IN REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. EMBASSY FILES SHOW THAT ROCLAW WAS ARRESTED

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IN 1965 FOR PAINTING PCA (COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARGENTINA) SLOGANS
ON WALLS, AND THAT OF THE FOUR MEN RELEASED WITH THE LEAGUE'S
ASSISTANCE-LEAGUE MEMBER ROBERTO ANTONIO DI VITA AND ARGENTINE
PEACE COUNCIL MEMBER JORGE ALBERTO KREYNESSE WERE ACTIVE WITH
LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST-CONNECTED STUDENT GROUPS IN THE EARLY 1970S.
HILL

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